	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/748,040	VERDI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael C. Heck	3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Amendment filed 31 Aigust 2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *13-15, 17, 19, 20 and 23*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☒ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

Susanna Diaz
SUSANNA M. DIAZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 3623

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows to match the parent application:

- On page 10, line 29, delete "a second time period expires.", and insert

  -- a second time period expires *(step 170)*. --.

- On page 11, line 4, delete "the second time period is over.", and insert

  -- the second time period is over, **as determined at step 170.** --.

- On page 11, line 5, delete "When the second time period is over (step

  170)," and insert -- When the second time period is over, --.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael C. Heck whose telephone number is (571) 272-6730. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 273-6729.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300   [Official communications; including After Final
                        communications labeled "**Box AF**"]

(571) 273-6730   [Informal/Draft communication, labeled "**PROPOSED**" or
                        "**DRAFT**"]

mch
11 October 2005

Response to Amendment

1.   The objection to the drawings in the last Office Action has been overcome by the applicant's amendment to the specification.

2.   The objection to the specification in the last Office Action has been overcome by the applicant's amendment to the specification.

3.   The 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection in the last Office Action for claim 23 have been overcome by the applicant's amendment to the claim.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4.   Claims 13-15, 17, 19-20 and 23 are allowed.

5.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention of claims 13, 17, 19 and 20 disclose a method for computer networked consulting. Claim 13 discloses establishing a predetermined group comprising more than two members; receiving at a central location over a wide-area computer network, within computer network, within a predetermined first time period, a plurality of first messages from a members of the predetermined group; dynamically generating at least one set of queries based on at least a portion of the first messages received for the members of the predetermined group; sending the at least one set of queries from the central location to the predetermined group; receiving at the central location over the wide-area computer network, within a predetermined second time period, a plurality of second messages responsive to at least a portion of the set of queries; preparing at least one analysis based on a query in the set and any

corresponding responses; and sending the analysis from the central location to the predetermined group, wherein sending comprises sending the analysis only to those members of the predetermined group that responds to the set of queries. As to claim 17, the method of claim 13 further comprises establishing a predetermined group comprising two or more members that are required to respond to queries sent to them from a central location; sending the set of queries from the central location to the predetermined group, and sending the at least one analysis from the central location to the group. Claim 19 discloses establishing a predetermined group comprising more than two members; receiving at a central location over a wide-area computer network, within a predetermined first time period, a first messages form a first member of the group; dynamically defining a first query based on the first message received from the first member; sending the first query from the central location to at least a portion of the predetermined group; receiving over the wide-area computer network at the central location, within a predetermined second time period, a message from a second member of the group comprising a response to the first query; preparing an analysis at the central location related to the first query and the response to it; and sending the analysis over the wide-area computer network from the central location to the predetermined group, wherein the sending further comprises sending the analysis only to said first member and those members of the predetermined group that responded to the first query. As to claim 23, the method of claim 19 further comprises establishing a predetermined group comprising two or more members that are required to respond to queries sent to them from a central location; sending the first query from the central

location to the predetermined group; and sending the analysis from the central location to the group.

The closest prior art Thomas (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0002482) teaches potential survey participants register electronically via a computer if they desire to participate in surveys. Then, based on participant categories identified for a survey, participants are selected for the survey. A survey system coupled to a network where a survey requester places a request for a survey can be a Wide Area Network. The survey requester is the person or organization requesting the survey. A survey is generated when a survey requester places a request for a survey. The survey is electronically transmitted to the selected survey participants. The survey participants complete the survey and have their response electronically returned. Survey results are determined from the response of the participants. Optionally, the results are electronically distributed to a survey requestor. The survey requester can be a person or organization. Thomas and the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest receiving at a central location over a wide-area computer network, within computer network, within a predetermined first time period, a plurality of first messages from a members of the predetermined group within a predetermined first time period, or a first message from a first member of the group; sending the analysis only to those members of the predetermined group that responds to the set of queries, or sending the analysis from the central location to the group. Also, Thomas and the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest a predetermined group comprising two or more members that are required to respond to queries sent to them from a central location. Ackerman et al. (Ackerman et

al., Answer Garden 2: Merging Organizational Memory with Collaborative Help, ACM

conference proceedings on Computer Supported Cooperative Work, ACM Press, NY,

NY, 1996, p. 97-105) in combination with Thomas teach Answer Garden supports

organizational memory in two ways: by making recorded knowledge retrievable and by

making individuals with knowledge accessible. Users seek answers to commonly asked

questions through a set of diagnostic questions or other informational retrieval

mechanisms. If the user cannot find an answer of the answer is incomplete, the user

may ask the question through the system. If the question was a common one, the

expert could insert the question and its answer back into the information database.

Answer Garden is shown implemented in the World Wide Web and Answer Garden 2

(AG2) consists of a second-generation system architecture for organizational memory

and collaborative help support. The architecture decomposes the Answer Garden

functionality into a set of distributed software services. Collaborative help functionality

provides help to users at their own explanation level and potentially with iterative

diagnosis. Providing help from other people – such as colleagues on the same hall or

other group members – allows people to seek help first from the people most likely to

know the local content. While staying local is important, it can also be organizationally

dysfunctional when there is no local expert available. In these situations, a means for

escalating answers past the local group is required. The process continues, perhaps

routing the question to an expertise engine to find a suitable human expert, to a help

desk, or to agents that search for information on the Web or in proprietary information

sources. One can even imagine agents that hire outside consultants if the need is great

enough. Ackerman et al. in combination with Thomas and the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest that the system sets a timer, i.e., predetermined first time period and predetermined second time period, and the predetermined group comprises two or more members that are required to respond to queries sent to them from a central location.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure

-    Wlodka (DE 197 50 749 A1) discloses an on-line consultancy service that uses a dual system for on-line communication between a user and a knowledge databank.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael C. Heck whose telephone number is (571) 272-6730. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 273-6729.

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